

# 'I will never forgive'

Steve Lieberman

Family speaks out as Nagle's killer gets life sentence

Steve Lieberman The Journal News

NEW CITY - Before a judge sentenced him to life in prison without parole yesterday, Ronald Douglas Herrera Castellanos asked forgiveness from **Mary Nagle**'s family for raping, sexually mutilating and murdering her. But there was no forgiveness from the family of the New City mother of two.

The Nagle family didn't believe Herrera's claims of remorse in the courtroom. Instead, they spoke of the pain **Mary Nagle** endured in her bedroom during the 30 minutes she was brutalized on April 29, 2005, and the nightmares her children and husband, Daniel, live with.

"I will never forgive Mr. Herrera," Daniel Nagle said after the sentencing. "My faith is not strong enough. My children will never forget he killed their mother."

On April 4, after a 10-day trial, a jury convicted Herrera on 15 charges, including seven counts of first-degree murder, rape, sexual assault, sodomy, burglary and robbery. State Supreme Court Justice William Kelly sentenced Herrera to seven terms of life in prison, plus 114 years.

Herrera, 30, was working for a contractor hired to power-wash the family's back porch on April 29, 2005. He entered the Nagles' Tamarac Avenue house and attacked **Mary Nagle** from behind in the master bedroom.

Armed with a green-handled box cutter, Herrera slashed and beat Nagle almost beyond recognition. After leaving and being confronted by Nagle's sister, Anne Fallon, Herrera used Nagle's cell phone to call several women in her address book and described how he had raped her.

Yesterday morning, Daniel Nagle and his wife's mother, Mary Parry, spoke in court about **Mary Nagle**'s life as a child, businesswoman and mother. More than 100 people packed the courtroom, including friends, family, police officers and the media.

The sentencing came on Daniel and **Mary Nagle**'s 13th wedding anniversary. Daniel Nagle turned to his left several times to look at Herrera, who sat 10 feet away staring ahead and wearing a blue bullet-proof vest outside his orange jumpsuit. He was shackled around the waist, surrounded by five officers.

Nagle spoke about spending Mother's Day on Sunday with his two children, Christopher, 9, and Erin, 6, at their mother's grave.

Saying Herrera had turned "a family of four into a family of three," Nagle emotionally described how his children constantly ask - usually around bedtime - about how their mother died and if they would live a normal life again.

"I get up each and every day because my children need me and Mary would expect nothing less from me," Nagle told Kelly.

"Douglas Herrera beat, raped, sodomized and strangled the greatest love of my life and the mother of my two children," Nagle said. "The thought of how Douglas Herrera killed Mary is forever engraved on my life."

Nagle said his daughter wanted him to "tell the judge and Douglas that we loved our mother so much and that we miss her so much. Tell the judge that Douglas is a bad man who took our mother from (us)."

Mary Parry spoke of her daughter's charisma and positive outlook on life.

"Mr. Herrera not only killed our daughter but damaged our whole family," she said. "What motivates a man to commit a crime like this and show no remorse?"

Herrera told Kelly he felt remorse. At one point, he spoke about how he killed a chicken when he was 7 in Guatemala and had cried about it. Herrera followed his girlfriend to the U.S. on a six-month tourist visa in November 2000 and had been living in the country illegally since spring 2001.

Herrera and his lawyer, Barry F. Weiss, maintained he killed her under the influence of cocaine and alcohol - a claim District Attorney Michael Bongiorno and Chief Assistant District Attorney Louis Valvo challenged during the trial and jurors rejected during deliberations. He testified that he remembered going to the Nagle house to work and then waking up on top of Nagle's battered and blood-drenched body in a bedroom in shambles.

"I'd do anything to change what happened," Herrera told Kelly in Spanish, which an interpreter translated into English. "The fact that I did not shed a tear during the process doesn't mean I didn't feel in my heart. I feel the pain the Nagle family feels. It hurts me to know **Mary Nagle**'s children and parents will never see her."

Herrera then told the judge that **Mary Nagle** would always be with her husband and children.

"She hasn't left," Herrera said. "I'm very sorry. Forgive me."

William and Mary Parry said forgiveness and closure was not forthcoming for the man who murdered their daughter.

"That may happen in the future," William Parry said afterward. "We're a very close-knit family. Nothing as devastating as this can be set aside very easily."